

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04280 01 OF 02 010718Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
DHA-02 /060 W
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R 311716Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1602
INFO L/AMEMBASSY BONN 3177
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 4280

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM PO
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: AMALRIK WARMLY RECEIVED IN LISBON

SUMMARY: SOVIET DISSIDENT ANDREI AMALRIK RECEIVED A WARM
RECEPTION ON HIS MAY 27-30 VISIT TO LISBON. PRIME MINISTER
MARIO SOARES RECEIVED AMALRIK PRIVATELY, AND THE SOCIALIST
PARTY FOUNDATION WHICH SPONSORED THE VISIT DREW 500
POLITICAL LEADERS TO A PUBLIC LECTURE. THE OBJECT OF WIDE
PRESS AND TV COVERAGE, THE VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN
HEIGHTENING PUBLIC INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS. THE COMMUNIST
PARTY REACTED WITH SILENCE. END SUMMARY.
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PAGE 02 LISBON 04280 01 OF 02 010718Z

1. AMALRIK SPARKS INTEREST: SOVIET DISSIDENT HISTORIAN
ANDREI AMALRIK VISITED PORTUGAL MAY 27-30 AT THE
INVITATION OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY'S ANTONIO SERGIO
FOUNDATION. ON MAY 27, AMALRIK AND HIS WIFE MET WITH
PRIME MINISTER MARIO SOARES WHO INTRODUCED AMALRIK TO
HIS NEXT VISITOR, U.S. SENATOR RUSSELL LONG. AMALRIK

LATER ADDRESSED 500 OF LISBON'S POLITICAL ELITE, INCLUDING SEVERAL CABINET MEMBERS, AT A LECTURE SPONSORED BY THE FOUNDATION. THE PCP DECLINED TO PARTICIPATE IN A ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH AMALRIK ON PRIME TIME TELEVISION SATURDAY NIGHT. AMALRIK ALSO GAVE PRESS INTERVIEWS ON MAY 30. THE MEDIA GAVE MAJOR PLAY TO THE VISIT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE COMMUNIST PRESS, WHICH IGNORED HIS PRESENCE. THE ONLY UNTOWARD INCIDENT CAME WHEN SEVERAL ITALIAN LEFTISTS AT THE MAY 27 LECTURE ASKED HOSTILE, ANTI-SEMITIC QUESTIONS. THEY WERE QUICKLY HOOTED DOWN BY THE AUDIENCE.

2. AMALRIK SEES USSR IN CRISIS: IN HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCES, AMALRIK WAS DISPASSIONATE AND DIDACTIC. HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- DICTATORSHIPS OF LEFT AND RIGHT: RIGHT-WING DICTATORSHIPS FORCE THEIR PEOPLE TO PERFORM BY VIOLENCE; LEFTIST DICTATORSHIPS ATTEMPT TO CONTROL WHAT CITIZENS THINK AND DO. "THE SOVIET DICTATORSHIP HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A DICTATORSHIP OF THE RIGHT."
-- OBJECTIVE OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS: THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE SOVIET UNION DEMANDS THE FULFILLMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. ALTHOUGH STILL SMALL, THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT IS GROWING IN THE SOVIET UNION AND CANNOT BE STAMPED OUT.
-- USSR CRISIS: SOVIET SOCIETY IS UNDERGOING A PROFOUND AND COMPLEX CRISIS DUE TO THE DEMANDS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE AGE OF ITS LEADERS. THE CRISIS COULD LEAD TO A HARDENING OF THE REGIME OR A RELATIVE DEMOCRATIZATION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LISBON 04280 01 OF 02 010718Z

BUT THE "HARDLINERS ARE MORE LIKELY TO EMERGE ON TOP," AT LEAST IN THE SHORT RUN.

-- CARTER CAMPAIGN: AMALRIK VOICED DEEP SATISFACTION WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS, BUT REGRETTED THAT OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE NOT SUPPORTED THE PRESIDENT.

-- PORTUGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS: THE SUPPORT OF PORTUGAL FOR THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE PORTUGAL FREED ITSELF FROM A DICTATORSHIP. WEAK ECONOMICALLY, PORTUGAL NONETHELESS CAN EXERT A STRONG MORAL INFLUENCE IN SUPPORTING PRESIDENT CARTER ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

-- STALINIST PCP: THE REFUSAL OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ROUND TABLE DEMONSTRATED ITS LACK OF CONFIDENCE. THE PCP IS A THOROUGHLY STALINIST

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04280 02 OF 02 010724Z

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PARTY AND "STALINISM" AS AN IDEOLOGY IS DEAD.

3. BAR ASSOCIATION SPONSORS HUMAN RIGHTS SPEAKER:

THE PORTUGUESE BAR ASSOCIATION MAY 29 SPONSORED A LECTURE

ON "THE RIGHTS OF MAN IN A DEMOCRATIC STATE" BY PAUL

SEIGHART, EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT OF THE ENGLISH SECTION

OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF JURISTS AND PRESIDENT

OF BRITISH INSTITUTE OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN. THE LECTURE

MARKED THE INAUGURATION OF THE PORTUGUESE SECTION OF THE

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF JURISTS. SEIGHART URGED THAT

PORTUGAL JOIN OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

IN DEMONSTRATING ITS WILLINGNESS TO SUBMIT ITS INTER-

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PAGE 02 LISBON 04280 02 OF 02 010724Z

NATIONAL LAW TO INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.

4. COMMENTS: AMALRIK'S VISIT STIMULATED PUBLIC

AWARENESS AND INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES. HIS
IMPRESSIVE PRESENTATIONS WERE WELL RECEIVED BY THE
AUDIENCES. THE COMMUNISTS, WHO HAVE SOUGHT TO MANIPULATE
HUMAN RIGHTS CAUSES IN THE PAST, WERE EMBARRASSED. WHILE
OVERSHADOWED BY THE AMALRIK VISIT, THE SEIGHART LECTURE
MARKED THE PORTUGUESE BAR ASSOCIATION'S FIRST RECENT
VENTURE INTO THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. THE ASSOCIATION PLANS
TO ORGANIZE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES SHORTLY.
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